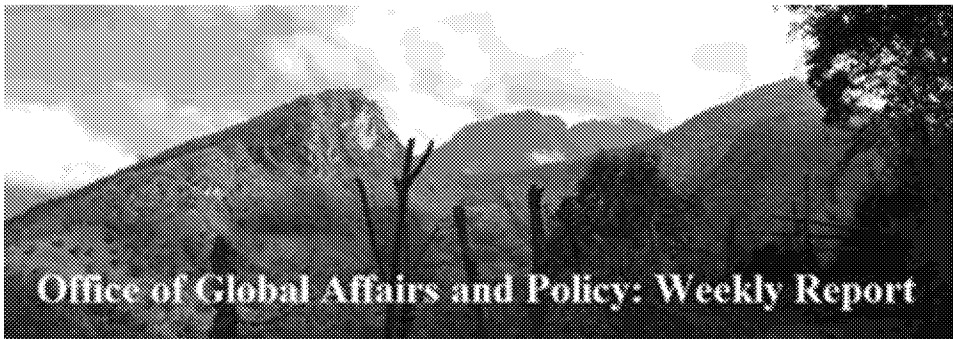


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OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS AND POLICY
August 29 – September 4, 2019



World Water Week

OGAP attended the annual World Water Week conference, held in Stockholm, focused on solving global water challenges. Attendees included multilateral development banks, environment ministries, NGOs, private industry, investors, foundations and intergovernmental organizations. OGAP moderated a session on blended finance for water infrastructure and attended side meetings, including with Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, Water.org, Urban Catalyst Fund, and OECD regarding their water finance portfolios. International water finance challenges are complex, and there are many stakeholders from across multiple sectors collaborating to tackle those challenges, such as improving drinking water supply, performance of service providers, and waste management. EPA is identifying potential partnerships and opportunities where we are best positioned to engage the international water finance community, consistent with EPA objectives and the US Government Global Water Strategy. [Ziegler]

World Health Organization Lead Paint Meeting with Countries in the Eurasian Economic Union

OITA participated in a World Health Organization (WHO) meeting on lead paint via teleconference with representatives of member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU); two member states attended - Armenia and Belarus. Other participants included UN Environment, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI), and IPEN, a global environmental non-profit organization. The EAEU is an international organization for regional economic integration was established in 2014 to ensure the freedom of movement of goods, services, capital, and labor, as well as coordinated or unified policies in various economic sectors. Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia are Member States of the Union. The EAEU is in the process of developing a regional technical regulation on lead paint that would apply to all member states. Kazakhstan is leading the development and review of the draft technical regulation. Belarus has been meeting with industry on lead paint, which supports lead paint limits, and will propose that the EAEU technical regulation follow recommendations of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint Model Law to restrict lead in paint to 90 ppm. The American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative offered to assist Belarus with developing proposed revisions to the technical regulation. The draft technical regulation is currently scheduled to be submitted for review by the EAEU Member States by December 2019 and approval by March 2020. [Bandemehr]

Solution Building and Action to End Plastic Waste Meeting

Last week, OITA, OLEM, and OW attended a two-day meeting on "Solution Building and Action to End Plastic Waste". The meeting was hosted by the American Chemistry Council and the 5Gyres Institute in order to bring industry such as

recyclers, consumer brands, and plastic production companies together with NGOs and government stakeholders to talk about plastic pollution solutions. The primary focus of the discussion was domestic with some attention to international challenges, specifically with respect to the role of the informal waste sector and identifying solutions to address the lack of waste management in developing countries. Most stakeholders were in agreement regarding the types and sources of plastics lost to the environment and that innovation is needed for better recyclability of products. Stakeholders also discussed the need for waste management services to be better represented and that more data is needed to better inform decision-making. [Horan]

Upcoming Events:

Arctic Contaminants Action Program Working Group Meeting, Tromso, Norway, September 10-12

International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, Krakow, Poland, September 9-13

Department of Commerce Workshop on Lead Paint Elimination in the Central European and Central Asia Region, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, September 11-12